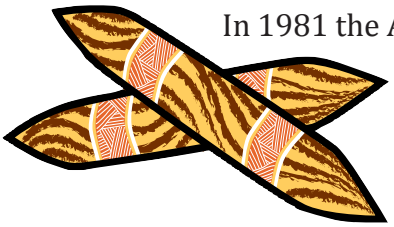
Name: _____

Date: _____

Graphing Indigenous Australian population

'Considerable caution is required in making any inter-censal comparisons. In particular, it is believed that a substantial proportion of the increases reflect a growing willingness of people to identify themselves as Aboriginals or Torres Straight Islanders'. Australian Bureau of Statistics Year Book Australia 1994



In 1981 the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) formally adopted the following question as the standard for identifying the Indigenous population: 'Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?'

In 1995 the ABS formally adopted the following question as the standard for identifying the Indigenous population: 'Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin? For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin mark both 'Yes' boxes.'

Tasks

1. Create a line graph of Estimates of Indigenous Australian population versus time. Look carefully at the Census Year and make sure your scale for time has equal increments and goes past 2011. Remember all graphs are drawn in pencil with a ruler.

2. Look carefully at your graph. Put a small cross on your graph to represent what you think the Australian Indigenous Population will be in 2011.
Connect the 2011 point to the rest of your line, but with a different coloured pencil. Extending your graph using estimation is called *extrapolation*.

Questions

1. Give reasons for why a line graph is the most appropriate way to present this data.
2. Explain why a histogram is an incorrect way to present this data.
3. Look at the shape of the line in your graph. What sort of graph is this?
4. Use extrapolation to estimate the Indigenous population for 2011.
5. Do you think your estimate will be correct? Give reasons for your answer.

Estimates of the Indigenous Australian population

Census Year	Number
1901	93,000
1921	72,000
1933	81,000
1947	76,000
1954[1]	75,000
1961	84,000
1966	102,000
1971[2]	115,953
1976	160,915
1981	159,897
1986	227,645
1991	265,492
1996	342,864
2001	485,500
2006	517,200

1 From 1958–1971 Indigenous was defined as individuals with no European ancestry.

2 Population figures prior to 1971 are estimates.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Year Book Australia editions 1983, 1988, 1994, 2007, 2008